



Touring Ensemble & New Voices Acting Company

Audition Information

(Rising 8th-12th Grade)

AUDITION DATE:

May 20, 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Location:

SPARC – 2106 N Hamilton St, Richmond, VA 23230

ABOUT TOURING ENSEMBLE:

This dedicated company of performers showcases their talents year-round at a variety of events held in the Richmond Community. Ensemble members participate in weekly rehearsals consisting of training in theatre, music, and dance. Led by Director - Allison Beckett, Music Director - Chandler Pettus and Associate Faculty - Josh Polk, the SPARC Touring Ensemble gains experience performing in dynamic settings, building the adaptability and composure necessary for live, public performance.

Typical performances include but are not limited to: Pridefest, Midlothian Village Day, Garden Festival of Lights at Lewis Ginter, Dominion Energy Christmas Parade, SPARC's annual live auction, and Maymont Family Easter.

ABOUT NEW VOICES ACTING COMPANY:

New Voices, SPARC's playwriting competition and education program, celebrates the work of student playwrights in the culminating one-act play event: The 35th annual Festival of New Works.

New Voices for the Theater is currently seeking student actors from 8th-12th grade for the 35th annual Festival of New Works. Actors are needed to fill roles in **six one-act plays** (specific character opportunities to be announced).

SIGNING UP

To sign up for an audition, fill out [this booking form](#).

WHAT TO EXPECT AND PREPARE FOR YOUR AUDITION:

- Auditionees will all arrive at the same time to check in and start with a group activity/info session. Then, the directing team will see individual auditions.
- Students should slate (say their name and what song or monologue they are performing) in the room before they begin.
- When you arrive, check in with the audition team in the lobby.
- **For Touring Ensemble:** Students will audition by preparing 32 bars (about 1 min) of any style of song that best shows off their vocal range. Songs can be performed acapella, or you can bring in a backing track. Please dress to move.
 - Students will have the chance to meet other Touring Ensemble members, chat with the directors, and discuss the upcoming schedule. We will kick off auditions with a group activity.
- **For New Voices Acting Company:** Students will audition by preparing a 1-minute contemporary monologue. SPARC staff will film the monologues for the New Voices directors to consider.

THERE WILL BE NO CALLBACKS

CASTING NOTIFICATIONS – by June 3 (Touring Ensemble) & July 1 (New Voices Acting Company)

- Guardians and students (if a student email has been given) will receive a notification via email, whether a student has been cast or not.
- While we work hard to notify all students as quickly as possible, it takes time for our staff to complete all individual communications. ***Please consider all auditioning students and refrain from discussing casting notifications until a cast list is shared publicly with cast members. This will help in reducing stress and anxiety while we work through notifications.***
- If cast in the **New Voices Acting Company**, there is a \$50 honorarium that will be paid out at the end of the festival.

Tuition and Scholarships

There is no cost to audition. However, should a student be cast in **Touring Ensemble**, the cost of tuition for participation is **\$720**. This tuition covers the year-long training process and more than a dozen performances throughout the year. No additional fees are ever requested. Payment plans are available so this fee can be broken up across the year.

Scholarships are available, too!

At SPARC, we work hard to make sure tuition costs are not a barrier to personal growth, creative expression, and community connections. Each year, as many as 1/3 of program participants can access scholarships, thanks to generous community donations.

Families will have the opportunity to express interest in a scholarship when casting notifications are sent by email. Registration for Touring Ensemble won't start until late summer, and the scholarship application will be sent about a month before that registration window opens.

To find out more about scholarships, see sparcrichmond.org/scholarships.

Are you a teenager who needs to cover tuition costs on your own? If so, please call or email us to discuss how we can help you to address tuition payments. We look forward to talking with you! sparc@sparcrichmond.org; 804-353-3393 x222

Attendance Policy and Conflicts for Touring Ensemble

Being cast in a production or touring group is a big commitment. SPARC asks that guardians and students look at family and school schedules closely before auditioning to ensure that the student can attend rehearsals and performances.

Due to the nature of Touring Ensemble's event-based schedule, not all cast members may be called to every rehearsal. Students/Guardians should communicate with the directing team about availability well in advance of a performance date.

SPARC Touring Ensemble trains students to work together in a collaborative performance troupe, performing year-round at various public and private venues.

Touring Ensemble Weekly Rehearsals: Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30pm

Location: SPARC (2106 North Hamilton Street, Richmond, VA 23230)

Students may not be called for each rehearsal and/or additional rehearsals may be scheduled in preparation for certain performances. SPARC Touring Ensemble students will perform at approximately 4-6 events per semester.

Attendance Policy and Conflicts for New Voices Acting Company

Being cast in a production or touring group is a big commitment. SPARC asks that guardians and students look at family and school schedules closely before auditioning to ensure that the student can attend rehearsals and performances.

Actor availability will be taken into consideration when making play assignments. Actors need only be available for their designated play's rehearsals, tech, and performance times. Please list conflicts on your audition sheet to the best of your ability so that we can accurately plan schedules when casting.

All rehearsals and performances for New Voices will be taking place at SPARC (2106 N Hamilton St. Richmond, VA 23230), unless otherwise stated.

Regular Rehearsals

Sunday July 20 – Thursday, July 24

- Plays 1-3: 4-6pm
- Plays 4-6: 7-9pm

Tech Rehearsals*

- Plays 1-4: Friday, July 25, 10am-6pm
- Plays 5-6: Saturday, July 26, 9:30am-1pm

*Actors are only required to attend their play's tech rehearsal, which will be a 1.5 hour time block.

The 35th annual Festival of New Works: Saturday, July 26

- Plays 1-3: 2:30 – 5:00pm
- Plays 4-6: 6:30 – 9:00pm